



**Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held
Thursday, January 28, 2016
2:00 pm
Clean Care of New England, Inc.
850 Wellington Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Daniel McKee at 2:05 pm. The Lieutenant Governor stated he was impressed by the coordination of efforts by this council and noted that Director Gaynor was unable to attend due to a meeting with the Governor. He added that Tony Silva from his office and Marc Pappas from EMA would be assisting with the meeting. A roll call was conducted. 14 members were present and 19 members were absent. It was noted that a quorum had been met.

Council Members and/or their Representatives:

Lieutenant Governor – Present
Adjutant General – Present
Director of Administration-Statewide Planning – Absent
Director Department of Health – Present
Director Department of Transportation – Absent
Director Department of Human Services - Absent
Superintendent of State Police – Absent
Public Utilities Administrator – Absent
Director Department of Environmental Management – Present
Director Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Dev. Disabilities & Hospitals – Present
Director Department of Elderly Affairs – Absent
Chairperson of the State Water Resources Board – Absent
Chairperson of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities - Present
Chairperson of the RI Public Transit Authority – Absent
Ex. Director of Coastal Resources Management Council – Absent
Ex. Director of the American Red Cross, Rhode Island Chapter – Absent
Ex. Director RIEMA – Present
State Court Administrator – Absent
Ex. Director of the Commission on Deaf & Hard of Hearing – Present
Director Providence EMA – Present
Ex. Director of E-911 Emergency Telephone Division – Absent
Federal Security Director of the Transportation Security Adm. for RI – Absent
Rep. from the Electric Industry – Present
Rep. from the Gas Industry – Present

Rep. from the Phone Industry – Absent
Ex. Director of the RI Petroleum Association or other similarly situated person – Absent
(2) Reps from the General Public, (1) who shall have expertise in disaster preparedness – Absent
Rep. from the RI League of Cities & Towns – Absent
Rep. from the Media – Present
Rep. from the Water Supply Industry – Absent
Rep. from the Health Care Industry – Present
Rep. from the Firefighters Association – Absent
Rep. from the Association of Fire Chiefs – Present
Rep. from the Ambulance Company – Absent
Rep. from Level One Trauma Hospital – Absent

Participants: Sam Adams, URI Public Safety, Shad Ahmed 9-1-1, Safer Institute; Jim Ball, DEM; Michael Borg, PEMA; Jay Burdick, RIVOAD; Marty Cooper, CRC Jewish Alliance; Donna DiMichele, DOA OLIS; Susan Early, BHDDH; Steve Florio, RI Comm. Deaf & Hard of Hearing; Joseph Merrill, RI Air Nat'l Guard; Angelo Miccoli, 2-1-1; Alysia Mihelakos, DOH; Lori Needham, RI Broadcasting Assoc.; Marc Pappas, EMA RI; Allison Rogers, DOA; Robert Seltzer, RI Fire Chiefs Assoc.; Joseph Shilling, Public Utilities; Paul Stasiuk, Nat'l Grid

Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2015:

Alysia Mihelakos, DOH, noted on Page 4 should read “exposure to AI virus” not A1.

Steven Florio, Executive Director for the RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, wanted the minutes to reflect that he was not in attendance due to the fact that an interpreter was not available.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with corrections. The motion was passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Marc Pappas, EMA, reviewed the Power Point presentation prepared by Director Gaynor as summarized below:

Storm Ready RI

StormReady, initiated through the National Weather Service, helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property—before, during and after the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.

SRRI Status - 33 of the 39 communities are engaged, with 27 in process and 5 awaiting equipment to submit, 6 are storm ready.

CodeRed Status – 39 are engaged, with 1 in process and 21 have signed an MOU

- *Question:* Is a list of participating communities on a website?
- *Answer:* Probably, will find out

- *Question:* Can Code Red be linked into a separate system such as a University's system?
- *Answer:* Yes, it can be done but must link database to database. Give Code Red access to your database.

RIEMA Update

To improve **communication** and **dialogue** between local emergency managers, public-private partners, the public and the Emergency Management Advisory Council in order to enhance cooperation, collaboration and integration in both routine and emergency incident responses.

Director's Priorities

- EMAP Accreditation (ongoing)
- Reorganization & Job Descriptions
- Grants Realignment/Fiscal Prudence
- CodeRed Implementation
- Storm Ready Rhode Island
- RI Business Alliance
- Credentialing for Businesses
- "Teams" Survey – A contractor has been engaged to look at special response teams currently funded. Will look into new ways to fund if necessary.
- Operations Re-Tool

Training & Exercise:

Approximately 1,000 trained in the Incident Command System (since May 2012) with 113 classes taught and approximately 4,000 people trained overall.

Recent Trainings & Exercises

Exercises:

- 9/12/15 RIEMA/RING Hurricane FE
- 9/17/15 Training and Exercise Planning Workshop
- 11/18/15 AMBER Alert Tabletop Exercise
- 12/9/15 Valley Falls Tabletop Exercise
- 1/6/16 Winter Ice Storm Tabletop Exercise (Governor & Staff)

Trainings:

- Shelter Manager
- Shelter Fundamentals
- ICS 300 and 400
- Land Navigation/Night Navigation

Planning & Mitigation

Current Projects Underway:

Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Initiate
Individual Assistance IDA/PDA SOP (New)
Mass Casualty Plan (update)
Family Assistance Center Plan (update)

Recently Completed:

State Shelter and Coordination Plan & Rollout
Hurricane Checklist (updated)
Winter Storm Plan (updated)

Goal Details: Goal 1

Review and/or assist in the development of the following plans, policies and procedures:

- Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
- Consequence Analysis
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Emergency Operations Plan
- Homeland Security Prevention & Coordination Plan
- Emergency Operations Center SOP
- Damage Assessment Plan
- Recovery Plan
- Continuity of Operations Plan
- Continuity of Government Plan
- Resource Management Plan
- Gap Analysis
- Communications Plan
- Situation Reporting
- Incident Action Planning
- Emergency Facilities Plan
- Emergency Public Information Plan
- Emergency Alert System Plan
- Joint Information Center Plan
- Training & Exercise Plan

Hazard Mitigation

Responsible for providing oversight and technical assistance for the 54 hazard mitigation plans and projects awarded across 31 municipalities.

Recently approved projects: Residential elevations and acquisitions, installation of backflow valve preventers, shelter generators.

State Hazard Mitigation Plan

Committee meetings have begun for 2019 plan update

Funding Opportunities

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for DR-4212

FY2016 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Programs

Silver Jackets Initiative: Silver Jackets teams in states across the US bring together multiple state, federal and sometimes tribal and local agencies to learn from one another in reducing flood risk and other natural disasters. Michelle Burnette is heading this initiative.

National Flood Insurance Program

Mapping Initiatives

Kent and Providence Counties Riverine Remapping Study

- Update of flood insurance rate maps incorporated historical data and high water marks collected after March 2010 floods
- Maps were effective October 2, 2015

Discovery Meetings in Cape Cod & Quinnebaug Watersheds

Community Rating System

- 8 municipalities participating to reduce premiums community-wide
- Pawtucket joined the program as a Class 8 on October 1, 2014
- Charlestown received a Class 7 rating effective May 1, 2015

Flood Insurance Status

- Over 15,300 policies statewide
- Average premium is \$1,570.80
- 6,444 claims made since 1978 with approximately \$120 million paid out to policy holders

External Affairs

Connecting with the community (efforts underway to reach out to the Latino population)

PODER 1110/Latino Public Radio

Senior Citizens Preparedness Campaign

Cranston Enrichment Senior Center (On-going campaign)

Elected Official Guide – Brochure regarding EM for Locally Elected Officials (In Process)

RIEMA Preparedness Grants

Homeland Security Grant Program Emergency Management Performance Grant Kickoff meetings headed by Katherine Miller with launch application period in the spring.

Projects should:

- Align with Agency priority core capabilities
- Have a beginning and end date
- Should be sustainable

Shared efforts, cooperative agreements, regionalization

Awards will begin 10/1/2016

Operations

- RISCON:
*Maintenance and Upgrade funding still and issue
State Budget*
- EMSTARS
Deployment of new Radio and Antenna's to begin shortly
- FirstNet: Nationwide, high-speed, broadband network dedicated to public safety
First Consultation held May 6, 2015

Funding Challenges:

- **Grants, RISCON & Teams**
 - Overlap in Grant Years artificially inflated available funding
 - Building of RISCON started with a clear vision on how sustainability would be achieved over the long-term

- RISCO maintenance and sustainability has quickly outpaced available federal funds. Funding is inadequate for current sustainability and future required upgrades
- Teams are expensive-Return on investment in questions
- We must achieve a fair funding among local, state and federal stakeholders to ensure redundancy and reliability

- **RISCO**

During 2016, RIEMA will also implement the following changes:

- The refinement of our focus to better support the RISCO network and public safety users
- The development of a radio equipment inventory and template for public safety departments in order to reduce unnecessary equipment costs while maintaining a high degree of interoperability
- The inventory of federally funded radio equipment and the transition to a regional reconfiguration (i.e.; cache radios) and redistribution

- **Final Comments: RIEMA**

Multi-year Strategic Plan – January 1, 2016

Consumer Service

Find a way to say “yes”

Only the Director can say “no”

We want to help you solve problems!

Open Discussion/Members Comments/Suggestions/Recommendation:

Goal Details & Membership Alignment

Statute: 22 Members *Ex Officio*

- Lieutenant Governor
- Adjutant General
- Director of Administration/Statewide Planning
- Director of Health
- Director of Transportation
- Director of Human Services
- Superintendent of state Police
- Public Utilities Administrator
- Director of the Department of Environmental Mgt.
- Director of Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals
- Director of Elderly Affairs
- Chairperson of the State Water Resources Board
- Chairperson of the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities
- Chairperson of the RI Public Transit Authority
- Executive Director of the Coastal Resources Management Council
- Executive Director of the American Red Cross, Rhode Island Chapter
- Executive Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
- State Court Administrator

- Executive Director of the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Director of the Providence Emergency Management Agency
- Executive Director of E-911 Emergency Telephone System Division
- Federal Security Director of the Transportation Security Administration for RI

Director Gaynor had proposed reducing Ex Officio members by eliminating the Chairperson of the State Water Resource Board, State Court Administrator and Federal Security Director of the Transportation Security Administration for RI while adding a President of the RI Emergency Management Association, thereby reducing Ex-Officio members to 20. Other proposed changes were the following titles: Instead of Director it will read “Secretary” of Health & Human Services, instead of Executive Director it will read “Director” of the RI Emergency Management Agency.

Discussion ensued pertaining to these changes. Alicia Mihelakos stated that the correct title is now Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, adding Director of Elderly Affairs is no longer a Director and is overseen by this office. The question arose as to whether the Secretary of EOHHS will replace the 4 separate agencies that are under its umbrella. In her opinion, the following should remain on the EMAC:

- Secretary of EOHHS
- Director of Health
- Director of Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Development Disabilities and Hospitals

It was suggested to eliminate Elderly Affairs, as this is no longer a Director’s position.

John Cournoyer from EMA explained volunteer organizations are active in the planning and organizing for disasters and suggested RIVOAD (National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) should be represented as is the case with Red Cross.

Angelo Miccoli, United Way 2-1-1, stated that 2-1-1 interacts with everyone at this table and should have official membership as well.

Allison Rogers, DOA, suggested removing Statewide Planning. She also noted that the statute does not clearly state as to whether the named positions can have a designee and elaborated that the Director of the agency should choose who to send to represent them.

Donna DiMichele, DOA OLIS, explained how her position is an ESF17 (Emergency Support Function) participant, and she would like to have a meaningful and official position on EMAC.

Tony Silva, Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor McKee, thanked everyone for their views and comments which will be taken under advisement. He commented that feedback is needed to make good substantive changes.

Statute: 18 Members *at the Pleasure of*

- Two (2) members of the senate, recommended by the President of the Senate, not more than one of whom shall be from the same political party
- Two (2) members of the House of Representatives, recommended by the Speaker of the House, not more than one of whom shall be from the same political party
- One representative of the electric industry
- One representative of the gas industry
- One representative of the telephone industry
- The Executive Director of the RI Petroleum Association or other similarly situated person

- Two (2) representatives of the general public, one of who shall have expertise in disaster preparedness
- One representative of the RI League of Cities and Towns
- One representative of the media
- One representative of the water supply industry
- One representative of the health care industry
- One representative of the RI Firefighters Association
- One representative of the RI Association of Fire Chiefs
- One representative of a private ambulance company
- One representative of a level 1 trauma hospital who shall have direct expertise in disaster preparedness

Director Gaynor proposed eliminating the following:

- One representative of the gas industry
- The Executive Director of the RI petroleum association or other similarly situated person
- One representative of a private ambulance company
- One representative of a level 1 trauma hospital who shall have direct expertise in disaster preparedness
- Also, proposed changing the representative of the electric industry to read “and gas” industry.
- Also, proposed reducing the representatives of the general public from two to one

A discussion was held regarding the 18 members who serve “at the pleasure of.” Chief Seltzer commented regarding the public/private debate concerning private ambulances noting that private ambulances or 3rd service ambulances have nothing to do with the actual planning. He also expressed his greater concern of not obtaining a quorum. He stated that whoever is chosen to be a member of EMAC needs to participate regularly.

A question arose regarding membership for the Firefighters Association as well as Fire Chiefs Association. Why both? To the best of the knowledge for those present, there has never been any participation from the Firefighters Association.

A suggestion was made to consider a strategic level of membership, proposing a larger group with a smaller “core” executive group for voting. The larger group, ESF17 representatives, would vote to present their recommendations to the core group.

It was advised by Shad Ahmed that EMAC address the “purpose” or mission of this group when considering membership. Tony Silva read Chapter 30-15, Section 30-15-6 pertaining to the EMAC. The Statute will be sent to all members for their review, and it will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Question: Which is the quorum based on, Ex Officio or the entire membership?

Question: If they do not have voting rights, are they part of the quorum?

Noted: It is not listed in the statute who has the right to vote

These questions will be addressed at the next meeting.

Lieutenant Governor McKee informed the council these issues will be placed on next agenda, adding the council should then select a method to get the group established.

Chief Seltzer cautioned everyone to keep in mind that the group needs to accomplish something.

Working Groups/Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Preparedness Working Group – has not met
- b. Mitigation Working Group – has not met
- c. Response Working Group – has not met
- d. Recovery Working Group – has not met
- e. Special Projects Working Group – has not met
- f. Regionalization Working Group – has not met

Announcements:

The next EMAC meeting will be held Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 2:00 pm at Clean Care New England.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Chief Seltzer and seconded by Alicia Mihalakos to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Goodrich

Executive Assistant to Lieutenant Governor Daniel McKee